In the Claims

21. (Thrice Amended) A compactor wheel mountable on an axle of a compaction machine, said compactor wheel comprising:

a hub mountable to an axle of a compaction machine having a body;

a rim mounted around the outer circumference of said hub, said rim having a face and an inner circumferential edge and an outer circumferential edge, said hub being mountable to the axle of the compaction machine so that said outer circumferential edge faces away from the body of the compaction machine;

a plurality of compaction cleats circumferentially spaced on, transversely spaced across and mounted to said face of said rim; and

an axle guard system comprising a cleat-free area formed circumferentially around said rim on said face and extending widthwise from said inner edge across said rim toward said outer edge [, with said cleat-free area being wide enough that, when said compactor wheel is mounted on the axle of the compaction machine, cable, rope and wire refuse to will be at least substantially inhibited from being directed toward and end up wrapped around the axle of the compaction machine on which said compactor wheel is mounted, wherein the rate of buildup of such refuse between said compactor wheel and the body of the compaction machine is at least reduced] .

23. (Thrice Amended) A compaction machine comprising:

a body suitable for compacting refuse, said body having opposite sides;

an axle having two ends and mounting said body; and

a compactor wheel mounted on each end of said axle, one compactor wheel on each side of said body, said compactor wheel comprising:

a hub mountable to said axle;

a rim mounted around the outer circumference of said hub, said rim having a face and an inner circumferential edge and an outer circumferential edge, said inner circumferential edge being closer to said body than said outer circumferential edge;

a plurality of tooth-shaped compaction cleats circumferentially spaced on, transversely spaced across and mounted to said face of said rim; and

an axle guard system comprising a cleat-free area formed circumferentially around said rim on said face and extending widthwise from said inner edge across said rim

toward said outer edge a distance to reduce refuse accumulation about the axle of the compaction machine. [, with said cleat-free area being wide enough that cable, rope or wire refuse will be at least substantially inhibited from being directed toward and end up wrapped around said axle of said compaction machine such that the rate of buildup of such refuse between said compactor wheel and said body is at least reduced.]

25. (Thrice Amended) A compaction machine comprising:

a body suitable for compacting refuse, said body having opposite sides;

two axles, each axle having two ends and mounting said body; and

a compactor wheel mounted on each end of each of said axles, each said compactor wheel comprising:

a hub mountable to said axle;

a rim mounted around the outer circumference of said hub, said rim having a face and an inner circumferential edge and an outer circumferential edge, said hub being mounted on said axle so that said inner circumferential edge is closer to said body than said outer circumferential edge;

a plurality of compaction cleats circumferentially spaced on, transversely spaced across and mounted to said face of said rim; and

an axle guard system comprising a cleat-free area formed circumferentially around said rim on said face and extending widthwise from said inner edge across said rim toward said outer edge for reducing movement of cable, ropes, or wire refuse inward toward said inner circumferential edge of said rim. [, with said cleat-free area being wide enough to at least substantially inhibit cable, rope or wire refuse from being directed toward and end up wrapped around said axle of said compaction machine, wherein the rate of buildup of such refuse on said axle, between said compactor wheel and said body, is at least reduced.]